

## Guilty verdict sparks campus conversations

SIDNEY LOWRY

News Reporter | @sidney\_lowry

Students, faculty and staff gathered around the small seating area and TV outside of the student involvement office to listen to the verdict people have been waiting months to hear.

Nearly 11 months after George Floyd was killed May 25, 2020, by former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin, he was found guilty of unintentional second-degree murder, third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter April 20.

As the judge read the verdict convicting him of all charges brought against him, a sigh of relief spread across the room. This was the first step in justice, but after the initial feeling of relief, many spoke on their mixed feelings about the trial's outcome.

Northwest's Leadership Team was quick to support students before the announcement of the verdict by offering an open-mic conversation for students, faculty and staff to speak about what they were feeling. Almost 387 miles away from Minneapolis, Northwest students were no more detached from the severity of the Chauvin case than the leaders of large protests in a city rocked by injustice.

Justin Mallett, associate provost of Diversity and Inclusion, called the organized event a "listening session" with assistance from representatives from Wellness Services to help with racial trauma.

"We got word that the verdict was going to come through today, and so we immediately put out through our social media and email for people to be involved," Justin Mallett said.



ADDALYNN BRADBURY | NW MISSOURIAN

Northwest's Associate Provost for Diversity and Inclusion Justin Mallett speaks to a small crowd of Northwest faculty and students in the open-mic conversation for the Derek Chauvin verdict April 20 in The Station.

SEE VERDICT | A4

## Email details plans for fall semester

MADELINE MAPES

Assistant News Editor | @MadelineDMapes

Provost Jamie Hooyma sent out an email April 20 to faculty discussing expectations for the fall 2021's return to normalcy including no social distancing, no requirement to use Zoom and optional masks.

In this email, she lists different expectations University officials have in regard to classes and mitigation measures, but nothing is entirely decided upon. Students and faculty will be updated over the next few months.

Hooyma said the University will continue to monitor COVID-19, along with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines and Nodaway County's case numbers for the fall 2021 semester.

"The closer it gets the more likely it's seeming," Hooyma said about a semester with less or no mitigation measures.

She noted that the University is anticipating a return to normal classroom sizes with single delivery methods, or in other words, without the requirement of using Zoom. The University also plans on eliminating prep week for the fall 2021 semester, and final exams will be in person.

Hooyma said despite the University planning a return to pre-pandemic class structures with some adaptations learned from the pandemic, things are constantly changing: just because cases in the county are down as of late, it does not mean they will stay that way by the time the fall semester rolls around.

She said the safety of everyone on campus and the learning environment are the University's top priority when making decisions as the fall semester approaches.

"We're going to have to do what we have done all along, which is make incremental decisions and base them on the best information that we have at that point in time," Hooyma said.

The email also stated that the University plans to resume study abroad trips and faculty traveling as well, so long as CDC guidelines say it is safe to do so.

The fall schedule has already been laid out and published on the University website.

## Campus in need of costly projects

MADELINE MAPES

Assistant News Editor | @MadelineDMapes

President John Jasinski addressed Missouri legislators in Jefferson City, Missouri, asking for \$35 million to cover costs for infrastructure projects at the J. C. Redden Jr. Power Plant and Martindale Hall.

Vice President of Finance and Administration Stacy Carrick said \$25 million will be put toward new boilers in the power plant that are 40 to 50 years old, while the last \$10 million will be used to update Martindale Hall so that it better accommodates a learning environment.

Carrick said the state asked public institutions of higher education if they needed any funds for infrastructure. She said the University decided its two major needs, which Jasinski took to Missouri legislators.

Despite knowing that the boilers needed replaced and Martindale Hall, home to the School of Health Science and Wellness, needed updates, the University does not have any final plans for either of the projects.

"It's kind of the starting point of a process with the state to try to se-

cure monies to help pay for those types of things," Carrick said.

Assistant Vice President of Facility Services Dan Haslag said in an email to The Missourian that they were aware of the boilers' condition and that they needed replacements for a number of years.

Haslag said the boilers provide heating, cooling and hot water to the majority of the campus, and

having new boilers would increase efficiency and reliability of steam heating and hot water utilities.

Provost Jamie Hooyma said the only reason those boilers have not been replaced yet is strictly due to funding and other priorities.

"We sit down and we prioritize — this is a safety concern — obviously that's going to be one of the first things that gets fixed and

moved to the top," Hooyma said.

She said that although there are updates that are needed to be made to Martindale Hall, none are due to safety concerns.

Carrick noted that Martindale Hall is probably the oldest building on campus that hasn't had any major renovations.

SEE MONEY | A4

# \$35 million

Total cost of power plant and Martindale Hall projects

# \$25M

Boiler replacements  
in the J. C. Redden Jr.  
Power Plant

# \$10M

Modernization and  
classroom upgrades to  
Martindale Hall



ADDALYNN BRADBURY | NW MISSOURIAN

Ethan Horn, an electrician for Pinnacle Electric, works on an outlet in the Diversity and Inclusion office. Renovations started April 6 to add in new paint, carpet and furniture into the space that houses students, faculty, student support services and organization meetings.

SIDNEY LOWRY

News Reporter | @sidney\_lowry

The Office of Student Involvement is undergoing renovations taking place during the summer to allow students a better and more inviting environment.

Changes in the OSI will not be made until students leave for the summer break, but should be complete by the time students start arriving in the fall semester.

Though the entire office is undergoing changes, the Diversity and Inclusion office started their renovation April 6 to add new paint, carpet and furniture into the space that houses students, faculty, student support services and organization meetings. They hope to complete their side of the revitalization sometime the week of May 10.

Justin Mallett, associate provost of Diversity and Inclusion, said the renovations specifically to the Diversity and Inclusion side of the of-

fice are to create a space where students feel welcomed to loosen up and be themselves.

"We are redoing the office space that is in there and creating a more social lounge space where students can come in and relax," Mallett said. "The whole point is to try to make a stronger sense of belonging for our marginalized students."

Mallett said the hope for the Office of Diversity and Inclusion renovation is to give these students a space of their own rather than a shared space by everyone.

"We have always been in a shared, integrated space, and while that's great, one of the things we have learned over the course of the summer is that our marginalized students are looking for a place to call their own," Mallett said. "This allows our students to have a place they can call their own."

SEE RENOVATIONS | A4

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# Mosaic plans to phase out mass clinics

**MADELINE MAPES**  
Assistant News Editor | @MadelineDMapes

Mosaic Medical Center - Maryville President Nate Blackford said the overall effect of COVID-19 on Nodaway County is continuing to trend in the right direction as weekly mass vaccination clinics normally held at the Carl and Cheryl Hughes Fieldhouse are being phased out.

This week's clinic, held Wednesday, April 21, was the last mass clinic where first doses were administered. Three more clinics will be held to finish up second doses as demand for the vaccine in mass quantities dwindles in Nodaway County.

Community Health Nurse Bridget Kenny said 53 Pfizer first doses and 83 second doses, which were mostly Moderna, were handed out at this week's clinic.

Blackford said this week's clinic was one of the smallest, if not the smallest clinic the hospital has held since it started mass vaccination clinics.

"It is just purely a reflection on those who have — who wish to get the vaccine have either already done so or have signed up this week," Blackford said. "I think it's just a reflection on the decreasing demand for the vaccine that we certainly expected and knew would come at some point."

Suzanne Von Behren, Nodaway County Health Department Health Educator and Registered Nurse, said she was happy to see people in the community so enthusiastic about getting their COVID-19 vaccines.

She noted that she hopes community members continue to get vaccinated after the mass vaccination clinics end.

"I look forward to see the continued progress through different



ADDALYNN BRADBURY | NW MISSOURIAN

University Wellness Services Nurse Pamela Turner fills up syringes of the Pfizer vaccine at the mass vaccination clinic held April 21 at the Carl and Cheryl Hughes Fieldhouse. Three more clinics will be held to finish up second doses as demand for the vaccine in mass quantities dwindles in Nodaway County.

venues, so maybe not the mass vaccinations, but through pharmacies, doctors offices, other clinics," Von Behren said.

Von Behren said the partnership between the University, the health department and Mosaic - Maryville has been amazing. She said she was thankful to be a part of the mass clinics and see the partnership work out well.

Assistant Director of Wellness Services Judy Frueh said the Wellness Center has seen a decrease in testing for COVID-19, which tells her that the mass vaccination clinics made an impact on the community, including the campus.

She hopes that through the continuation of administering vaccines, whether it be through mass clinics

or other vaccine administrators, that Nodaway County can get back to a sense of normalcy.

"I'm really proud of the community coming together, and I feel like we have made a difference," Frueh said.

Blackford noted that even though Mosaic - Maryville is ending the mass vaccination clinics, it plans to implement a vaccination process at the hospital for those who wish to be vaccinated and just did not get the opportunity to prior to the end of the mass clinics.

He also said Mosaic - Maryville will continue to make other opportunities for vaccinations available to people through other vaccine administrators in the county like local pharmacies, the Wellness Center and the

Nodaway County Health Department.

Blackford said when Mosaic - Maryville started the mass vaccination clinics, it had hoped to have 50% of the county population vaccinated by the time demand decreased.

According to the Missouri COVID-19 vaccine dashboard, as of April 20, the latest information available, 31.9% of local residents have initiated the vaccination process, and 24.7% of Nodaway Countians have finished the vaccination process. This puts Nodaway County 14 out of 115 counties with the highest percent of population that has received all doses of their COVID-19 vaccination.

If the county had been closer to the 50% Mosaic - Maryville was hoping for, the county would only

by about 20% from reaching herd immunity, which was one of the hospital's goals with the mass vaccination clinics.

"We wanted to make ourselves available through mass vaccine clinics until the demand dictated otherwise, and we have reached that point," Blackford said.

Despite the ending of mass clinics, Blackford said by the fall semester he hopes to reach the 50% mark.

"I am not yet willing to give up on getting to some number by the fall or end of the year that is closer to that 50%-60%," Blackford said.

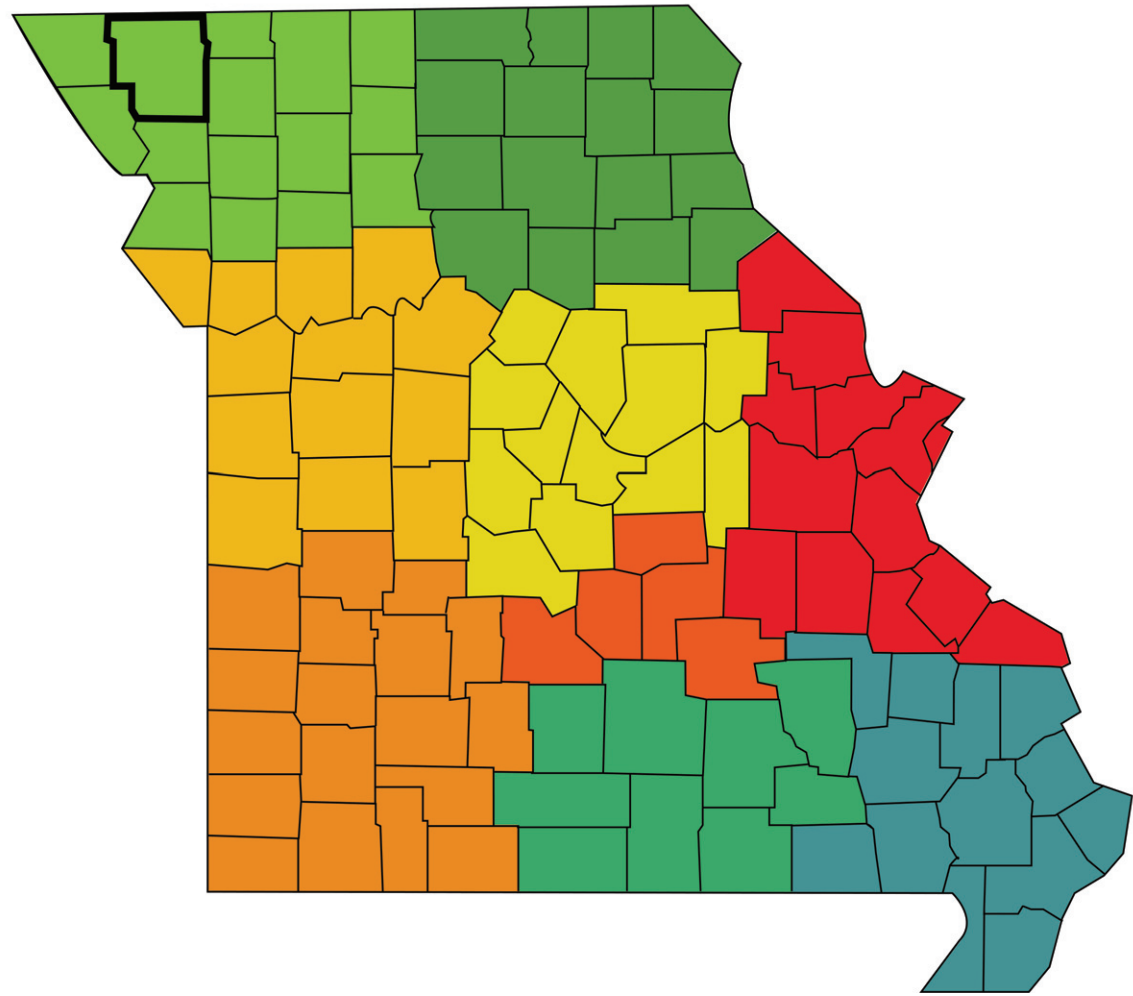
He noted if there were to be another spike in demand for COVID-19 vaccines, Mosaic - Maryville would do mass vaccinations again, so long as there is enough demand. If that day never comes, Mosaic - Maryville is working on a plan to administer doses to people at the hospital.

Blackford said the hospital is still working out the details, but he believes it would lump appointments together in order to use all doses in a vial of a COVID-19 vaccine so as to not waste any doses since once the vial is opened, the doses only last about six hours after being mixed with saline.

Blackford encourages people to get vaccinated at any of the vaccination administrators in Nodaway County to continue stifling COVID-19 cases in the county.

According to the Nodaway County and Northwest COVID-19 dashboards, as of April 17, the most current information, one local resident was announced to have tested positive, and 15 other residents currently have COVID-19, three of which are from the University. There have been a total of 2,684 cases in the county, and the seven-day rolling average is two.

## Opioid Overdose Death Rate Per 100,000 (2016 - 2017)



SOURCE: CDC, 2017

MARTINA PASCUZZO & SIDNEY LOWRY | NW MISSOURIAN

# Local agencies crack down on drug abuse with annual event

**KENDRICK CALFEE**  
News Editor | @calfee\_kc

Local agencies are partnering with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration for the 20th annual Drug Take Back Day 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 24.

The event is designed to prevent pill abuse and environmental contamination by allowing people to get rid of expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs.

Prescription drug abuse and disposal are both a public and environmental health threat, according to the Pollution Prevention Institute. Improper disposal of medications via sewers or landfills can lead to surface water contamination, and when unwanted drugs are not disposed of properly, it can lead to abuse of those substances.

Returning unused or unwanted medications to a pharmacy or bringing them to a law enforcement agency are reliable methods for keeping these substances from entering the water supply and reducing the risk of abuse.

Leena Divakar is a part of Kansas State University's Pollution Prevention Institute. She, along with other members of the team, helps with outreach and education about disposal of these kinds of drugs to various communities in Kansas and Missouri.

"We are reaching out to county officials and basically doing promotion for the event on April 24th," Divakar said. "And we're just spreading awareness on how to dispose of these opioids, the sharps and stuff like that and how bad it is for the environment."

Divakar also said this event comes at a time when drug overdose by opioids was on the rise, so education is an important factor in the USDA funded project. Agencies participating in the take back day are focusing on rural access to safe drug and sharps disposal.

The best way to dispose of most types of unused or expired medicines, the Pollution Prevention Institute said, is to drop substances and tools off at a take-back site.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 81,000 drug overdose deaths occurred in the U.S. between May 2019 and May 2020. This is the highest number of overdose deaths ever recorded in a 12-month period.

The Pollution Prevention Institute said that while overdose deaths were already increasing in the months leading up to the COVID-19 pandemic, the latest numbers suggest an acceleration of overdose deaths throughout the pandemic.

Nodaway County residents are encouraged to bring unwanted drugs to these area locations for disposal: Brother's Market at 402 E. Price Ave, Savannah, MO 64485 and Maryville Department of Public Safety at 101 N. Vine St, Maryville, MO 64468.

Sites can only accept pills or patches, and cannot accept liquids, needles or sharps. The service is free and anonymous with no questions asked. Collection sites will follow local COVID-19 guidelines and regulations.

For more information about safe disposal as a way to prevent drug abuse and protect the environment, people can visit the institute's website at [www.sbeap.org/safe-disposal](http://www.sbeap.org/safe-disposal) or call 800-578-8898.

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# Professor receives grant for research on refugees

WESLEY MILLER  
News Reporter | @wesleymiller360

Emily Frazier, assistant professor of geography for Northwest, received a \$30,000 grant from the Russell Sage Foundation to help with her research of refugee resettlement in the Midwest.

Frazier, who came to Northwest during the summer of 2020, is at the head of a research project named “Integration of Resettled Refugees in the U.S. Midwest” that compares resettlement centers in Des Moines, Iowa, and Lincoln, Nebraska. Frazier said her project is trying to see and compare what resettlement looks like in Lincoln and Des Moines. Most importantly, she said, the project additionally looks at how the resettled individuals experience integration once they arrive.

The University of Tennessee-Knoxville alumna said this work was inspired from her dissertation work near Knoxville, Tennessee, and in Louisville, Kentucky. She has expertise in the southeast U.S. but not really any in the Midwest since she is still new to the region.

“I’m definitely interested in learning more about how that works in this region of the country,” Frazier said with a nod.

The Russell Sage Foundation is an organization that focuses on helping groups and individuals make living conditions for others better.

Refugees are a type of migrant, and they are generally ones who were forced to move due to persecution or other dangers. According to The Nation, there are more displaced people in the world today than there ever has been before. The article said that World War II displaced near 60 million people, and today there are nearly 80 million people who have been displaced.

“That’s crazy, and less than 1% of them ever get to be resettled,” Frazier said.

Frazier said she feels incredibly lucky to have received the grant from the Russell Sage Foundation since they have so many other funding priorities whether it be projects on homelessness, equality, immigration or refugees. She said she was glad her project could meet

some of their broader goals. “This project is really aimed at finding ways to improve integration outcomes,” Frazier said. “How can we make sure this program is working and is going to be beneficial for people in their communities?”

Frazier said a \$30,000 grant may sound like a lot of money, but for projects like hers, it gets used quicker than most would think.

“What a lot of people don’t realize is that research costs a lot of money,” Frazier said with a laugh.

Within her work, Frazier interviews, observes, surveys and visits the field workers to talk with others about what’s happening. Frazier said there are a lot of costs associated with doing that work.

Frazier said even the small things like a digital recorder and transcription costs can add up quickly. She has to make sure everything is transcribed, and some of the money can be used to have someone else do the transcribing.

FULL STORY ONLINE:  
NWMISSOURINEWS.COM



ALYSSA VISOS | NW MISSOURIAN  
Emily Frazier, a humanities and social sciences assistant professor, leads a class in Valk 20, talking about gender in the global economy.

# City Hall to undergo redesign, other renovations

KENDRICK CALFEE  
News Editor | @calfee\_kc

Maryville officials are planning renovations for City Hall in response to long-standing structural, space and accessibility issues, furthering compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

While some of these issues have been highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic, some have been a problem for the city long before the days of mask-wearing and social distancing. The city plans to update and expand upon the standing City Hall building — first constructed in 1938 — in a collaborative effort to make the space more practical, structurally sound and accessible.

During the last fiscal year, City Council made it a priority to at least get through the design process and begin looking at potential construction companies. Now, the city’s full schedule this fiscal year will leave officials to balance larger projects, like the South Main Improvement Project, and fixing issues like water damage and HVAC issues in their own buildings.

City Manager Greg McDanel said that as of April 22, there are no funds allotted to or budgeted for construction on City Hall renovations, and there could be some time before the city will find financing options that make sense for the project.

“I think we’ve been successful in facilities so far with the event center and the Maryville Public Safety facil-

ity by getting through the design process, and during that process looking for outside funding opportunities,” McDanel said. “So that’s kind of where we’re at right now, really working through that design element.”

Proposed renovations thus far include a redesign of the front exterior of the building, centering the front entrance and having it meet ADA guidelines. Larger windows would be added to allow more nat-

ecture and Preservation, a company from the Kansas City, Missouri, area which focuses on downtown revitalization projects.

STRATA originally estimated the project to cost close to \$4 million, but city officials expect about a \$2.5 million price tag when the design is finalized.

Councilwoman Rachael Martin is a veteran member of the City Council who has served since 2014.

Martin said. “More importantly, providing a City Hall space that is accessible to all of our citizens requires reconfiguring the space.”

Since City Hall sits in the downtown overlay district, designs for renovation to the building will follow downtown development guidelines passed by the City Council. But it wasn’t just aesthetic issues that came with an outdated City Hall building — it was structural integrity issues, too.

ational, the expansion and improvement of City Hall became a top priority for the Council.

Councilman Tye Parsons recounted concerns from the water damage that caused city staff using offices on the east wall to relocate. Mold and mildew became a problem due to failed mortar and compromised parts of a brick wall.

Citing similar issues as Martin, Parsons said, space and accessibility should be on the forefront of planning.

“From a space perspective, the building is woefully inadequate in terms of the Council chambers,” Parsons said. “Large crowds cannot be accommodated in the current building. Beyond the Council chambers, the city has a shortage of storage and office space, forcing some employees to share small work areas.”

Despite the ongoing issues at City Hall, city staff and the Council have kept a positive outlook on progress with the design for renovations.

“Staff has done a fabulous job of keeping the conversation and opportunities surrounding this topic churning in the background while working at our lengthy list of other ongoing priorities and projects,” Martin said.

McDanel said the city will discuss further what long-term options are available during the budget season this year, and since the design is 80% complete, these discussions could happen soon. Construction on this kind of project, McDanel said, could take close to nine months.

“More importantly, providing a City Hall space that is accessible to all of our citizens requires reconfiguring the space.”

-RACHAEL MARTIN

ural light into the building, and at its rear, a 6,000-square-foot extension would be built to include another public entrance.

A new central corridor inside, as the design reads, would provide for better public access. A larger City Council chamber would occupy part of this space, and outside of the main corridor would sit larger, modernized office spaces for employees.

McDanel said the city is approximately 80% through the design process with STRATA Archi-

The downtown district has been a focus of the Council throughout the duration of her time serving. Martin said this project is important because it requires the city to meet the same expectations it lays out for buildings throughout downtown Maryville.

“As we work with investors, entrepreneurs, committees and advisers from the Missouri Main Street Organization, it is not lost on us that we, too, need to take financial and planning measures to ensure our own property is meeting those standards,”

It was determined through a 2014 needs assessment and site analysis that renovations and remodeling were needed at both the former public safety building and City Hall. Structural integrity and accessibility were the foremost concerns with both buildings. At the time, the city was considering combining the two into one building. City officials eventually found it made the most sense to work on those projects separately.

Once the new R. Keith Wood Public Safety Facility became oper-

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# CRIME LOG

for the week of April 22

## Maryville Department of Public Safety

**April 13**  
There is an ongoing investigation for financial exploitation on the 400 block of Park Avenue.  
A summons was issued to **Dagen V. Price**, 19, for possession of a fake I.D. on the 1500 block of North Main Street.  
A summons was issued to **Noah P. Edge**, 37, of Raytown, Missouri, for failure to appear in court on the 100 block of South Main Street.

**April 15**  
There was an accident between an unknown driver and **Garyn M. Miller**, of Knox City, Missouri, on the 100 block of West Sixth Street.

**April 16**  
A summons was issued to **Kevin Weaver III**, 18, for possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia on the 100 block of East Fourth Street.

## MONEY

CONTINUED FROM A1

“The School of Health Science and Wellness is one of our fastest growing programs, and so we want to renovate and upgrade that building to make it more ... academic-friendly,” Carrick said.  
Hooyman said Martindale Hall has had minor renovations to some classrooms, but the building, which was built in 1925, has not had any modernization renovations for the building itself, including some classrooms.  
“We try to upgrade and modernize our buildings as we can, especially our classrooms because we want the best for the students, and the learning environments have changed,” Hooyman said.  
She noted some of the changes the University has been aiming

A summons was issued to **Samori M. Gaines**, 19, for failure to properly affix license plates on the 100 block of East Fourth Street.  
A summons was issued to **Maile R. Baker-Dehann**, 19, for failure to appear in court on the 400 block of North Market Street.  
A summons was issued to **Colton H. Tisthammer**, 19, for driving while intoxicated, minor in possession, possession of a fake I.D. and failure to yield.  
**April 17**  
A summons was issued to **Tanner B. Derks**, of Stanberry, Missouri, for possession of a fake I.D. on the 100 block of East Third Street.  
A summons was issued to **Reagan O. Smith**, 19, of Bennington, Nebraska, for minor in possession and possession of a fake I.D. on the 400 block of North Buchanan Street.  
**April 18**  
A summons was issued to **Logan J. Zimmerman**, 22, of Ravenwood, Missouri, for resisting arrest and disorderly conduct on the 200 block of South Buchanan Street.

ing to make is making classrooms more functional for activities such as moving desks for group work.  
Hooyman also said the University is hoping to accommodate for more technology-related learning based on what faculty and staff have learned about utilizing technology throughout the pandemic.  
It is currently unknown if the state would fully fund these projects, but the University should know how much money they will receive by May 28, the day Missouri’s legislative session ends.  
If the state does not provide the full \$35 million, then the University will have to find other ways to pay for the projects.  
Carrick said the University would have to consider any capital funds they have left to use, any donations they may receive or if they should consider taking on more debt to complete the projects.



Northwest’s Associate Provost for Diversity and Inclusion Justin Mallett speaks with DI Coordinator Brittany Roberts following an open-mic conversation for the Derek Chauvin verdict April 20 in The Station.

## VERDICT

CONTINUED FROM A1

The conversation began with the topic of sentencing. Brittany Roberts, coordinator of Diversity and Inclusion, said she had mixed feelings on the verdict.  
“I’m kind of in the middle,” Roberts said. “I feel like even as a Black person, or a woman of color, some people are like, ‘it’s not enough,’ and then some people are like, ‘oh, we’re good,’ so I feel like I have to pick a side as well. Was it enough?”  
Dana Mallett and Bridget Clark, counselors from the University Wellness Center, said that the counselors are there to help with any way that people may be feeling on this.  
“I think it is important to acknowledge that you can have conflicting feelings right now,” Dana Mallett said. “It can be really heavy having to see years and years of people being murdered and knowing that’s what is happening and not being able to do anything about it. Seeing people like you, that’s race-based trauma.”  
Though this trial is over, Justin Mallett said there are going to be other ones soon, and that the mixed feelings that people were having af-

ter the relief is understandable.  
“I can see where you straddle both sides,” Justin Mallett said. “Why we are celebrating came at the cost of a life of a black male.”  
Cassandra Tavorn, TRIO director, said that the problem stems from the law enforcement system and that in order to change what is happening, people in power have to change.  
“The behavior is still there,” Tavorn said. “Convicting one man of murdering another individual, the system that produced that individual is still there. The work that we have to do is to work to make sure that our law enforcement agencies know the culture has to change, and our society has to demand that change.”  
Freshman Darren Ross said the problem that runs through his head when these situations happen is the lack of integration within law enforcement and the community.  
“It’s always said that it’s the situation of wrong individuals in the wrong place,” Ross said. “It’s usually cops that have no idea about the area, people and culture, and then coming in and trying to control with fear because they don’t know the area.”  
Justin Mallett added that Clarence Green, chief of University Po-

lice, and the rest of the Police Department hold events to create less of a gap with the community.  
“It’s amazing when you think about it here, pre-pandemic, more students on this campus had more trust in our University Police Department than they do any other entity on campus. That’s because they put themselves out there.”  
Tavorn then went on to give a call to action for the majority of the population of students at Northwest.  
“As white students, you can use your privilege,” Tavorn said. “When you see something, say something. That’s the most powerful thing you can do. The more you all use your privilege to stand up, it’s going to make the other individuals stop and think the next time, ‘Oh, I can’t get away with it,’ so use your privilege.”  
Justin Mallett later echoed Tavorn’s message and added on a message for students of color.  
“I think that for our white students, it is to use your privilege and be vocal,” Mallett said. “I think for our people of color, we want you to show up and still be a part of things and understand that there is support from all levels across campus. We can’t let a small number of insensitive people speak for the entire group.”

# Senate, UPD to designate parking for student veterans

**SIDNEY LOWRY**  
News Reporter I | @sidney\_lowry  
Student Veterans Association and the University Police Department are working together to get five student veteran designated parking spots around campus by the fall 2021 semester.

Though the details are still being presented to the University, these spots are projected to be in Valk, Carl and Cheryl Hughes Fieldhouse and the Administration building parking lots.  
Junior TJ Goldizen, the president of Student Veterans Association, made getting these spots around campus a goal when he first came to Northwest.  
“All over the country there is designated parking for veterans, and I figured that we could just bring this on campus,” Goldizen said. “I called all over the country to different universities, and I did not find one university that actually had it.”  
University Police Lt. Amanda Cullin said these parking passes won’t come at an extra cost to student veterans, and the University is covering the costs of the signs and permit designations.  
Some other campuses across the country give discounted parking to their student veterans; Goldizen said this is something that he would like to see implemented at Northwest.

“I think not only the parking, but giving a little more gratitude to our student veterans because they put their lives on the line for our country — for our freedom,” Goldizen said. “I think discounted parking would be a good thing to have.”  
To help with this, there was a proposal at the April 6 Student Senate meeting to use some of the \$25,000 rollover budget to go toward covering the cost of a discount to give to student veterans for their parking passes.  
Though there has been no official plan to appropriate the money, Goldizen said it will be proposed again in the fall semester to put the funds toward student veteran parking passes.  
To differentiate student veterans from traditional students, they would have a different sticker parking permit or a hanging tag.

“Everybody would still get the same parking permit, whether they live on or off campus,” Goldizen said. “Then they would have to go through the Student Veterans Association to be confirmed and validated as a student veteran.”  
Once that has been validated, the organization will send a list over to UPD to issue additional parking passes to the student veterans.  
Cullin said that UPD was approached by Student Veterans Association to make these designated parking spots, and they accepted as a way to show more support for student veterans.  
“There have been spots that have been identified, especially over in Valk, there is a center for veterans they regularly visit, so that would be an obvious place to put some veteran parking spots,” Cullin said.  
Though there are more student

veterans on campus than parking spots being created, Goldizen said it would be on a first-come, first-served basis. He said that not creating too much student veteran parking was in an effort to not create more of a parking issue for other students on campus.  
“If it comes down to where we need more veterans parking, then we can revisit it to add more spots,” Goldizen said.  
These parking spaces are still in the beginning development of being implemented but are planned to be on campus when students come back for classes in the fall.  
“I think this is going to be a good victory for student veterans to have, whether this is something they have thought of or not,” Goldizen said. “We are going from military-friendly to military-inclusive, and this is one way to show it.”

## RENOVATIONS

CONTINUED FROM A1

Jamie Hooyman, University provost, said that there won’t be a final cost until the renovations are done, but usually major replacements like these are around \$100,000.  
“We have capital money that is budgeted every year that goes to different projects, and we set prioritizations,” Hooyman said. “When you have buildings as old as our building, renovations are a part of it.”  
She thinks that the renovations were needed to make the space more inviting to students.

“I would say the carpet alone was 15 to 20 years old,” Hooyman said. “No one would even live with that in their house, and that is a high-traffic area. Plus, that’s what students use; our students are in there all the time, and they need a nice space.”  
With the renovations taking place, the community barber shop is currently closed. Mallett said that it would be opening again when renovations have been completed.  
Over the summer, the frequency of the barber shop will be decreased but will still be available for the community members and students who stay in Maryville during the summer.

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Blocking  
Medicaid  
ignores  
the voters

QUENTIN MORRIS  
Missourian Columnist  
@TheMissourian



Missouri Republicans are re-  
jecting the will of the voters by  
blocking Medicaid funding despite  
Missourians voting for it through a  
2020 statewide ballot initiative.

During the most recent presi-  
dential election, Missouri residents  
also had the chance to vote for a  
Medicaid expansion through the  
Affordable Care Act, also known as  
ObamaCare. Voters passed this ini-  
tiative with a 53% majority. Despite  
this, state Republicans are pushing  
to block the health care expansion.

This should infuriate any Mis-  
souri voter, whether they voted  
for or against this initiative, be-  
cause it is a direct attack on de-  
mocracy in our state. They are go-  
ing against their very role as leg-  
islators, and they don't even have  
a good reason for doing it.

"Medicaid expansion is wrong  
for Missouri. I think it's wrong  
for the state budget," Rep. Cody  
Smith, R-Jasper County, said. He  
then argues that the federal gov-  
ernment cannot afford to send  
money to the state to assist in pay-  
ing for the health care expansion.

"The federal government has  
no money — there is only taxpay-  
er dollars," Smith said. "They are  
federal deficit spending at a rate  
that is unprecedented at this point."

Federal spending is no concern  
of a state representative and defi-  
nitely should not be a reason to go  
against the will of the people. On  
top of that, Missouri actually has a  
surplus in its spending for the next  
fiscal year. Mike Parson himself  
anticipates a \$1.1 billion surplus in  
the state budget, which is plenty of  
money to cover the cost of Medic-  
aid expansion. Missouri will only  
have to spend \$130 million, while  
the federal government will send  
the state more than \$1.5 billion.

Rep. Doug Richey, R-Excelsi-  
or Springs, also argued the state  
could not afford the expansion and  
instead wants to use the money for  
other existing programs, including  
increasing funding to help elder-  
ly people and people with disabili-  
ties. However, the proposed budget  
leaves millions unused with plen-  
ty of money left over to expand  
Medicaid. The most ironic part of  
Richey's stance is that he fails to  
understand that the people who  
need Medicaid often are elderly or  
have a disability.

"For me, it is a very easy deci-  
sion to make when it comes to pri-  
oritizing those who are most vul-  
nerable," Richey said. Good thing  
that is the whole point of expand-  
ing Medicaid in the first place.

The increased eligibility would  
allow an estimated 230,000 addi-  
tional low-income Missourians to  
be covered, according to the Kan-  
sas City Star.

The state will not suffer a huge  
budget loss from increasing the  
Medicaid program. It doesn't mat-  
ter, though, because all the argu-  
ments should be null and void any-  
way. Missouri representatives are  
showing they do not care about the  
will of voters unless it is convenient  
for them.

The very thought that a group  
of lawmakers are even having the  
conversation, much less acting on  
the idea of overturning the will of  
the people is a disgrace to what  
America stands for. Any lawmak-  
er that pushed to block increased  
spending should be removed from  
office because they are no longer  
representing the majority of Mis-  
souri's population.



CHRIS YOUNG | NW MISSOURIAN

OUR VIEW:

McCollum decides to return;  
don't take this for granted

For now, Northwest men's basket-  
ball coach Ben McCollum is staying put  
in Maryville, where he's helped bring  
home three NCAA Division II National  
Championship trophies in the last four  
full seasons.

With the circus that is the NCAA Di-  
vision I coaching carousel finally calmed  
— and jobs at mid-major programs  
like University of Texas at El Paso and  
Abilene Christian filled — McCollum is  
still here. And he expects to be here in  
the fall, when the Bearcats will look to  
defend their latest national champion-  
ship, which they won in dominant fash-  
ion over West Texas A&M March 27 in  
Evansville, Indiana.

"As of right now, yeah," McCollum  
told The Missourian April 20. "I'm not  
going anywhere."

This news might represent a pause in  
McCollum's career arc that will inevi-  
tably carry him onto bigger programs  
in pursuit of better opportunities, but  
at least for now, his presence should be  
championed in Maryville. And while The  
Missourian generally reserves this edi-  
torial space for matters of more pressing  
local importance — often amplifying the  
voices of public health, offering com-  
mentary on area politics or critiquing de-  
serving institutions — McCollum's ex-  
tended stay at the helm of a program that

has always united residents in a divisive  
age seems worth celebrating.

Over the last 12 years — and increas-  
ingly over the last five — McCollum  
has become one of the most dominant  
coaching forces in all of college basket-  
ball. He's done so at Northwest seem-  
ingly by fate, after suiting up for North-  
west as a player in the early 2000s before  
ditching a career at Wells Fargo to be-  
come a graduate assistant under former  
coach Steve Tappmeyer. After taking an  
assistant job at Emporia State, McCol-  
lum found his way back to Northwest to  
replace Tappmeyer in March 2009, 10  
years after graduating from St. Mary's  
High School in Storm Lake, Iowa, and  
eight years after transferring to North-  
west as a player.

If McCollum's arrival at Northwest  
and ascension to the pinnacle of Divi-  
sion II coaching was by fate, the fact that  
he is still here must be by way of luck.  
There has been Division I interest in Mc-  
Collum, and the coach has admitted to  
having Division I interest of his own.  
And while he's been somewhat vague in  
most interviews about where he hopes  
his career takes him, it's clear that North-  
west won't be his first and final stop as a  
head coach.

"I don't need the ego boost of saying I  
am Division I," McCollum told the Sioux

City Journal earlier this month. "Howev-  
er, there are challenges that I would ac-  
cept if it was the right opportunity."

McCollum's departure from North-  
west, it seems, is going to come down  
to "when" and "where to" rather than if  
at all. And, to be clear, McCollum de-  
serves to be a coach elsewhere, at a  
school with a larger endowment, play-  
ing at a higher level, paying more mon-  
ey to the coach who has built a dynasty  
in northwest Missouri.

When he departs — whether it's in  
a week or a year or a half-decade — he  
should receive a hero's send off. There  
should be only well wishes and posi-  
tive press. There should be faith in his  
replacement and the process that he'll  
leave behind. There should probably be  
an arena named after him.

But those are tasks for a tomorrow  
that is still on hold. For today, there  
should just be appreciation of a coach  
who has molded an above-average pro-  
gram into one of basketball's greatest  
powerhouses — one that will continue  
to generate championships for at least as  
long McCollum is around.

Northwest fans have been spoiled  
with success on the hardwood since 2009  
and with McCollum, Hudgins and senior  
Ryan Hawkins returning, they will be  
spoiled for at least another season.

YOUR VIEW:

How do you feel  
about Ben McCollum  
deciding to stay at  
Northwest?

JUSTIN GROTHENDICK  
Freshman  
Pre-Med



"I am glad that he has decided  
to stay at Northwest so that our  
basketball team can continue to  
be successful in their upcoming  
seasons."

GRACE WARNER  
Freshman  
Applied Health Science



"I think that it is a good thing  
that he is choosing to stay at  
Northwest. I do not blame him for  
thinking about moving to a bigger  
school, but hopefully, he chooses  
to stay and help our team continue  
to grow."

LIINCOLN HIPSHER  
Freshman  
Undecided



"I don't know much about sports  
this year since we have not been  
able to see any games. However,  
I think that it is a very good thing  
for Northwest to continue to have  
Ben McCollum as the coach for  
the men's basketball team."

THE STROLLER:

Your Bearcat is going to miss dorm life

As my freshman year comes  
to a close, I thought it'd be a  
fitting stroller to simply write  
about how much I enjoyed liv-  
ing in the dorms.

The best of it is definitely the  
guys on my floor. They're almost  
always hooting and hollering at  
the most convenient times. As I  
write this on a Sunday nearing  
midnight, they're all either being  
really loud from their rooms —  
probably seeing who can scream  
the loudest — or they're just  
hanging around in the hallways as

if quiet hours don't exist. This can  
go on until as late as 3 a.m. It re-  
ally helps me sleep at night.

I also absolutely adored shar-  
ing a bathroom with strang-  
ers. Clean bathrooms are no fun;  
there's no risk involved.

Then there's the fire alarms.  
I'm so glad they go off frequent-  
ly, otherwise I would forget they  
are there.

There was one first semester,  
and, it wasn't so bad. It went off  
at around 5 p.m., and we all just  
hung out in the parking lot. There

was this one kid who still had his  
pot of spaghetti that he was cook-  
ing. Thankfully, one of those won-  
derful alarms went off at 2 a.m.  
in the middle of winter. I'm sure  
it wasn't planned; we would nev-  
er experience an inconvenience  
at this fine institution because of  
poor planning. So there I stood,  
in my 2 a.m. best, nothing but my  
boxers and a hoodie I haphazardly  
threw on because I feared it was a  
real emergency, and it was a Sun-  
day, of course.

The best part of this whole ex-

perience was the prices. It's in-  
sane cheap. Unfortunately, it's  
time to say goodbye to dorm life.  
Now, I'm looking forward to rent-  
ing a house with my roommate,  
but I'm sure going to miss 2 a.m.  
fire alarms. As much as I loved  
living in Hudson Perrin, I'm just  
sad I didn't live in the nicest ac-  
commodations Northwest had to  
offer — Dieterich.

*The Stroller has been a tradition  
since 1918 and does not reflect the  
views of The Northwest Missourian.*

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RETURN

CONTINUED FROM A8

Just like McCollum, Hudgins isn’t going anywhere, despite ESPN reporter Jonathan Givony thinking otherwise.

Givony, an NBA Draft analyst, reached out to Hudgins through Instagram to let the reigning NABC Division II Player of the Year know he wanted to talk to him about his plans for next season.

Givony thought Hudgins was perhaps going to enter the NCAA Transfer Portal in hopes of calling a Division I program home next season. Hudgins planned on staying in Maryville all along.

“I just told him I was coming back,” Hudgins said. “I didn’t think it was that big of a deal until everyone started asking me about it, so. I just told him. It went public, and everyone went crazy, I guess. I mean, I signed up for classes two weeks ago. ... I’m staying here.”

“Part of my thing is making sure that if I thought the best interest of a player was to go somewhere, I would tell them that,” McCollum said about Hudgins, along with the other mid-major-caliber players that make up the roster. “I really feel like I would if that was in his best interest to reach his top potential. I don’t think it is. I don’t think it is in other people’s cases, and I think they’re in the right spot. They’re loved, and they love being here. We love having them.”

For Hudgins, though, he’s perhaps one of the best men’s basketball players to ever play at Northwest. He’s third on the program’s all-time scoring list, second on the



ADDALYNN BRADBURY | NW MISSOURIAN  
**Junior Trevor Hudgins dribbles past Emporia State sophomore Gage McGuire in the Northwest men’s 100-61 MIAA Tournament quarterfinal March 3. Hudgins was named to the all-tournament team, contributed with 15 points, five assists and two steals. He finished his season with an NCAA-high 90 made three-pointers.**

program’s assist list, only the program’s second NABC Division II Player of the Year, a two-time MIAA Player of the Year and was the Elite Eight’s Most Outstanding Player as a redshirt-freshman in 2018.

He still has two years of eligi-

bility left, too.

“I think the thing with him, and quite a few of our guys, those guys are really good basketball players,” McCollum said. “He’s an extremely self-assured, confident human being, so he doesn’t need a lot of ego boost. From his perspective, he will

play professionally.”

Before Hudgins can do that, he’s planning on finishing his degree during this upcoming year at Northwest. He expects it to be his final collegiate season before exploring his options among the professional ranks.

TOURNEY

CONTINUED FROM A8

“I think it’ll do a lot for us mentally,” McKeever said about having home-field advantage. “Last weekend, we spent a lot of time on the road, and it was draining. Being here, we get our locker room vibes, we get our fans, we get all of our family. It’s just so much more fun to play in front of everyone.”

Gordon described this tournament as a creative opportunity to give all teams a sense of competition to mirror the usual feel of a postseason. That includes the senior’s final minutes as a college student — final minutes as an athlete.

For McKeever, these final games of the spring season will not be her final games as a Bearcat. With an additional year of eligibility being granted to fall athletes due to COVID-19 modifying seasons, she will utilize hers and return for one more run with Northwest. These final games of the spring will be her way of sending her fellow seniors off.

“This tournament’s a little different, but we’ve never hosted in a situation like this,” McKeever said. “The fact that we put our-

selves in a situation to host is really exciting. We do have a couple people who won’t be rejoining us next season, so it’s exciting to play at home one more time with them. We’ve been working for this moment for four years together, so this is one last hurrah with them before they leave.”

McKeever believes her team can come out with a win over Southern by doing two things: playing with more heart and playing for each other. She acknowledged that Southern is a “very athletic” team but said the Bearcats should be able to keep up with them.

Gordon wants his team to continue playing how it has been during its streak of offensive production. However, he said his team will have to play up to the level of Southern because it has yet to play the Lions this season.

“We want to continue to try some of the different things we’ve done,” Gordon said. “How we apply pressure and how well (Southern) plays as our opponent will dictate what we can and can’t do. The idea is to go in with a plan and execute, but again, it depends on how

well Missouri Southern is playing.”

Despite Gordon’s analysis of the Bearcats’ opponent and the variance in number of games played, McKeever sees no difference between her team and the Lions. If anything, the difference in schedules, McKeever said, plays into her team’s advantage.

As the Lions have already played 15 games (including exhibitions) this season, they’re closer to burnout than the Bearcats, in McKeever’s opinion.

“It’s not going to be as much of a factor now versus if we would’ve played them at the beginning,” McKeever said about Southern’s schedule. “We’ve both been playing multiple games a weekend now. I think we’re reaching more of our peak than when we played our first MIAA weekend. I don’t think too much of a difference will occur this weekend.”

The ‘Cats will kick off against the Lions at 3 p.m April 22 at Bearcat Pitch. Depending on the outcome of both games, Northwest will play either Rogers State or Fort Hays State.

Whether McKeever is right or wrong about her team’s advantages, the Bearcats will still have to line up to prove themselves. As she returns from a strained calf, McKeever is more than ready to play in her second postseason game of her career.

“We’re really excited to play at home in front of our crowd again,” McKeever said. “There’s no doubt in my mind that if we show up for 90 minutes, we’ll win this game. Things are coming together better for us recently, and we’re ready to finish our last two games strong.”

Freshman runs toward top of state rankings for Maryville track and field

CORBIN SMITH  
Sports Reporter | @curly\_corbs

The Winnetonka Invitational revealed another gem for Maryville track and field April 15, as freshman Connor Blackford raced his way into the top 10 of the MSHSAA Class 3 rankings.



Blackford surprised himself by running the 1,600-meter run in 4 minutes, 38 seconds and 78 milliseconds, shattering the freshman record by 20 seconds. That time is No. 7 in Class 3, according to Athletic.net. Blackford is the fastest freshman to run the event in Class 3, as well as the 800-meter run and the 3,200-meter run. He finished third in the competition, two places in front of senior teammate Garrett Dumke, who crossed the line in 4:45.31.

“I really had no expectations going in — I was just looking for a new PR,” Blackford said. “I went out there and tried not to look at my watch. I said, ‘I’m going to leave it all out there, see what I can give and see how low I can go.’ When I crossed and saw how fast I ran, I couldn’t believe it.”

Blackford said he’s right where he wants to be in this part of the season. However, without the motivation of Dumke lining up next to him, he wouldn’t have ran as

fast, he said.

“I knew that I had the best shot because (Dumke) was in it,” Blackford said about running a new personal best. “He’s a great teammate and someone who really pushes me to my limits. Just to go out there and compete with him was really special. It was good to push myself and do it with somebody who has had a lot of success.”

Dumke sneaked his way into the top 10 as well with his performance. He sits at No. 10 in Class 3.

At the conclusion of the meet, Dumke was the overall leading pointscorer for the Spoofhounds with 15 points after winning the 3,200-meter run in a time 10:12.88, landing him eighth in Class 3. Dumke also ran a leg on the 4x800-meter relay team, which finished fifth with a time of 8:32.20. The team of Dumke, Blackford and juniors Cale Sterling and Jag Galapin sits third in the state following its performance in the Winnetonka meet.

“Each meet, we continue to set PRs, whether it’s the jumps, the throws, the sprints or the distance races,” Maryville coach Rodney Bade said. “At this point in the season, we’re pretty happy with where we’re at right now.”


Now, in the thick of the schedule and less than a month until district championships, the Spoofhounds are beginning to feel the fatigue of the season. Bade explained that much of his team was unable to run Thursday because they were not fit to run or went home from school early due to illness.

On the Friday following the Winnetonka Invitational, Bade decided to cancel practice in order to give his athletes a break. After arriving back to Maryville from Cameron, Missouri, April 13 and Kansas City, Missouri, April 15 after 9:30 p.m. both nights, the ‘Hounds were exhausted from traveling as much as they were from competing.

“We try to preach hydration, eating well and getting plenty of sleep,” Bade said on combating mid-season fatigue. “We suspected they were going to be pretty tired on Friday, so we gave them another day off. We encourage them to keep up on taking care of themselves. Go for a walk, stretch or roll over the weekend, those types of things.”

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ADDALYNN BRADBURY | NW MISSOURIAN  
Redshirt-freshman Prince Griffin runs in a practice relay on the track inside of Bearcat Stadium. The Northwest track and field team has two more meets before the MIAA Outdoor Track Championships May 8-9 in Pittsburg, Kansas.

# Tune-up to ready NW for final run of year

**WESLEY MILLER**  
Sports Reporter I @wesleymiller60

After four meets this spring, two more await the Northwest track and field team before the MIAA Outdoor Track Championships.



The last two regular season meets for the Bearcats will be the Drake Relays April 22-24 in Des Moines, Iowa, and the Pittsburg State Tune-Up April 24 in Pittsburg, Kansas, meaning April 24 will be the last meet some of the athletes will have before they prepare for the conference meet.

The Bearcats will travel back to Pittsburg, Kansas, May 8-9 for the MIAA Outdoor Track Championships. Last season, the outdoor championships were canceled due to COVID-19. The season prior, in 2019, the men's team finished second, and the women's finished sixth in the conference.

Currently, in the USTFCCA conference rankings, the Northwest wom-

en's team sits sixth in the MIAA while the men's is in ninth place. The latest national rankings have the women's team 20th in Division II, four spots down from the previous rankings.

Prior to the last weekend of the regular season, Northwest met Division II provisional marks in nine events, including the women's 4x400-meter relay.

The Bearcats have two athletes who met national marks in field events with graduate student Josh Warner meeting them in the discus throw and freshman Dakota Schmidt meeting them in javelin.

With the regular season finishing up, and conference being right around the corner, some of the athletes are taking this time to tune up parts of their performance.

Schmidt said that for the conference meet he just wants to sharpen up his technique in the weeks of preparation.

"My plant leg is probably the biggest part of my technique and performance that I want to accomplish," Schmidt said. "Besides that, just go out and compete at a high level."

Although the conference meet will be next on the agenda for the Bearcat track and field team after this weekend, it is still over two weeks away, so some athletes aren't too worried about it yet.

Schmidt said there is still plenty of work to be done. He said that there will be some great throwers at the tune-up meet, which will give him good practice for conference.

In the first meet of the season, Schmidt broke the Northwest javelin record and met Division II provisional marks in the event. Due to taking time off from competing at meets, Schmidt hasn't been able to meet that mark again or surpass it. However, Schmidt said the time off

### UP NEXT

**Drake Relays**  
April 24  
Des Moines, Iowa  
**Pittsburg State Tune-Up**  
April 22-24  
Pittsburg, Kansas

and not being able to repeat that success yet does not concern him.

"I have used it as motivation during my time off," Schmidt said. "I know I can replicate or even improve on that 64-meter throw from earlier this year, which has motivated me to perfect my craft. ... While it is nice to have a solid mark already, it just means I need to move it further and further in order to get to where I want to be."

During the 2021 indoor track season, sophomore Delanie Dykes met national marks in three events, including one relay team. However, she has not repeated that success so far in outdoor season. Despite that, Dykes said her focus hasn't changed.

"I'm still aiming to reach those marks, so I think not reaching them is helping to keep me motivated," Dykes said.

Similar to Schmidt, Dykes is excited for this weekend. She said the week off has helped her feel rested up and ready to run. For herself, she said she's focused on just running a smart, well-paced race, while also doing her best for the team.

Looking past that, though, Dykes said she thinks the team and herself are ready for conference.

"I am very excited for conference. I feel like this outdoor season, the whole team has not really been all together to compete, so I am looking forward to competing as a team again," Dykes said.

# Tennis beats Augustana, preps for MIAA showdown

**CALVIN SILVERS**  
Sports Reporter I @CalvinSilvers



Nearly 100 fans gathered around the Huether Tennis Centre in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, as Northwest's No. 1 singles player Andrea Zamurri took the court against Augustana's No. 1 Cade Damgaard April 18.

Zamurri seemed unfazed in his first set, sweeping Damgaard 6-0. Vikings' fans knew their No. 1 singles player needed some extra help and came to the rescue by switching the momentum in favor of Damgaard. The cheers happened to get into Zamurri's head, and he dropped the second set 6-3.

As the third set was about to begin, and Zamurri was feeling stranded on the court, he dug into his potential and swept the final set 6-0 to improve his spring record to 14-0. The impressive play of Zamurri paved the way for his third MIAA Men's Athlete of the Week award this season.

"He's a fine, fine athlete; he's just a wonderful person. It's the total definition of a blue-chip athlete," Northwest coach Mark Rosewell said about Zamurri. "He's a great student. He's the whole package. He came back and won the third set 6-0, so it wasn't too much."

No. 19 Northwest (12-3 overall, 6-1 MIAA) rolled past Augustana April 18 with a 7-0 sweep. The dual victory captured the Bearcats' sixth win in the past seven matches, keeping them in the driver's seat for the No.1 seed in the MIAA.

The duel was all Bearcats from the start, as Northwest dominated the doubles matches, outscoring the Vikings 19-11. This marked the third time the 'Cats swept all three doubles matches this season, the last time coming against Emporia State March 27.

"Well, for once, we clicked on all the cylinders. We've been trying to do that; it's hard to do, but we played very well," Rosewell said. "When people are watching, it adds excitement. It always makes you play your best, I think, because you want to show what you have."

Northwest will close out its regular season April 24 against No. 17 Washburn (9-3 overall, 2-0 MIAA). Since the departure of Southwest Baptist from the MIAA, the Ichabods have risen as a true rival against the Bearcats. The duel controls the fate of both teams, as the winner will take sole control of first place in the MIAA North.

Junior Raul-Alin Dicu headlines Washburn's roster, picking up the MIAA Men's Tennis Athlete of the Week of the North Division April 12, which was the second time Dicu earned the accolade this season.

Dicu holds an overall singles re-



ADDALYNN BRADBURY | NW MISSOURIAN  
Freshman Tessa Kwakernaak prepares to swing at the ball during the Northwest women's tennis team's 4-3 win against Missouri Western April 6. Northwest fell to 10-5 overall after a 4-2 loss to the Augustana Vikings April 18.

cord of 38-26 and an overall doubles record of 34-30. In his last matchup at No. 1 singles April 11 against Bethel, he won in two sets 6-1, 6-3.

"There's always pressure with matches, that's why we play and so forth," Rosewell said about the upcoming duel. "Not only does this duel tell us where we will be in the conference, but it has regional implications as well. It is a huge match; there is no getting around it."

As Northwest wraps up the regular season this weekend and prepares for the MIAA Tournament, Rosewell has learned a lot about his

nationally-ranked Bearcats and has fallen in love with the game again.

"Well, No. 1, they're pretty tough. We really haven't had any injuries throughout the season. That's always a good thing. Injuries are going to happen, so we're hoping we can keep what we have going," Rosewell said. "We've grown tremendously. It's a really fantastic group. I haven't had this much fun coaching for a couple years. They really revitalized me, it's just a fine group."

**Northwest women's tennis**

Northwest's No. 1 doubles players Vera Alenicheva and Julia Aliseda took the court against Fort Hays

State April 17, looking to start the duel off on the right foot.

The pairing had no trouble handling the Tigers' duo of Stefany Stemmer and Sydney McAdoo, winning the matchup 6-3. Alenicheva and Aliseda secured their eighth straight doubles win, improving the chemistry they've built since being moved to the No. 1 spot.

"We started them at No. 2; they

### UP NEXT

**NW @ Washburn**  
April 24  
Topeka, Kansas

had played there last spring before it stopped," Rosewell said. "I don't think either one of them are natural doubles players, more singles players, but they're really getting the hang of playing doubles. They are our best team."

The Bearcats (10-5 overall, 6-1 MIAA) exerted their dominance against the Tigers, sweeping the duel 7-0. At the time, the win was the 'Cats' fourth consecutive match and also marked their eighth win in nine dual matches.

For the third time this season, Northwest won all three of the doubles matches. The singles play was just as dominant, as the Bearcats only dropped six games in the 12 sets that were contested.

"I think, particularly on the doubles, it was a confidence builder to try and get our doubles right," Rosewell said. "I think that match did give us some confidence."

It was a different story April 18 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, as the women faced No. 25 Augustana. The Bearcats' roster, consisting of eight freshmen, battled through adversity but fell just short to the Vikings 4-2.

FULL STORY ONLINE:  
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Northwest coach Ben McCollum points to a crowd of supporters after cutting down the net at the Ford Center in Evansville, Indiana. McCollum led Northwest to its third National Championship in five years, culminating in an 80-54 win over West Texas A&M March 27. McCollum is now 300-78, making him the ninth-fastest coach in NCAA history to reach the 300-win milestone.

McCollum, Hudgins headline latest to decide on return for next year

**JON WALKER**  
Sports Editor | @ByJonWalker

After every season, at least for the last handful of years, Northwest men's basketball coach Ben McCollum has been a topic of discussion when people talk about Division I job openings. He has been one of the premiere candidates at the next level since leading the program to its first national title in 2017.

The speculation will end early this year, as McCollum is expected to stay at Northwest for at least one more season.

"As of right now, yeah, I'm not going anywhere," McCollum said April 20 while sitting in his trophy-filled office on the upper floor of the Lamkin Activity Center.

McCollum staying within the plains of Maryville instead of searching for greener pastures isn't because Northwest Missouri State pays him more than he would make elsewhere. It isn't because he doesn't want to be a part of the accommodations that accompany a Division I program. It isn't because of any particular reason at all.

It's simpler than that, actually.

"I just like Northwest. I've got good kids, a good family setup — everything's good," McCollum said.

McCollum took over the program in March 2009, right after his former coach, Steve Tappmeyer, resigned. People were unsure at the time, as the then-almost 28-year-old McCollum was fresh out of an assistant job at MIAA foe Emporia State.

Since then, McCollum has secured 300 wins, three national titles, an all-time most four NABC Division II Coach of the Year awards, seven MIAA Coach of the Year honors and nine MIAA regular season titles.

He's given the program everything and then some. His players know that, and junior guard Trevor Hudgins now understands why McCollum hasn't left.

"Every program isn't for everyone, that's what I would say. I think he's built his dynasty here. I think he's built something amazing here," Hudgins said. "The culture is incredible. I just think everything he's built is great. I mean, you can't take away anything from him; he's just the man here. He has everything in control. He coaches how he wants to coach. He brings in the people he wants to bring in. He just continues the cycle. DI, I feel like it's a little more political and stuff like that. I feel like he has a great thing going here."

McCollum hasn't completely ruled out a departure, though. He told the Sioux City Journal in early April that "it has to be the right opportunity." Regardless, he'll be the Bearcats' coach for another national title run.

SEE RETURN | A6



Senior midfielder Madi McKeever fights for the ball against Central Missouri sophomore Madi Poertner in Northwest soccer's 3-0 loss to the Jennies April 2 at Bearcat Pitch. The Bearcats secured a 5-4 victory against the Jennies March 5 in Warrensburg, Missouri.

Lopers top 'Cats in last game of postseason

**CALVIN SILVERS**  
Sports Reporter | @CalvinSilvers

Down 6-2 in the fifth set of the MIAA Tournament Championship, Northwest coach Amy Woerth remained calm and composed on her chair, a spot she hardly moved from during the entirety of the tournament.

Woerth showed no signs of worry, as there was still a spark of fire deep within the Bearcats, who battled back after losing two early sets against No. 11 Nebraska-Kearney April 17 at Lee Arena in Topeka, Kansas.

"I tried to keep them in the moment, but everything you saw out of those sets was them and their determination," Woerth said. "They didn't want to give up, and they put in a lot of hard work. They've had a lot of sacrifices, and they just hung together."

The path to the championship was no easy obstacle for the Bearcats, who had two AVCA Top 25 teams standing in their way with the same goal in mind. This was the perfect opportunity for Woerth and company to prove they belong among the best in the nation.

**Game 1: Washburn**

Northwest began its quest toward an MIAA Championship with No. 14 Washburn (14-5) April 16. The atmosphere was different compared to prior postseason tournaments, as the Bearcats had to overcome playing the Ichabods on their home court.

The Ichabods showed their home-court advantage early, using impressive blocking at the net and forcing Northwest out of its comfort zone, forcing errors early to grab an established 5-1 lead. After an unusual timeout from Woerth, down 13-9, the 'Cats ended on a 16-7 run, capturing a 25-20 victory in the first set.

If the first set didn't have the heart rates of both teams rising, the ensuing two sets did. The second set proved to have zero room for errors, having five ties and nine lead changes.

Down 22-20, junior outside hitter Kelsey Havel rallied her team together off a kill that evened the score at 24. Havel's kill was not quite enough, and the Bearcats dropped the second set 26-24.

The third set did not favor Northwest, as the 'Cats were losing grip on the set down 20-17. They capitalized on the soft spots in the Washburn defense, pulling themselves from the depths to tie the set at 23.

FULL STORY ONLINE:  
NWMISSOURINEWS.COM

Home game awaits soccer in first round of MIAA Tournament

**CORBIN SMITH**  
Sports Reporter | @curly\_corbs

As the unorthodox spring soccer season comes to an end, it only seems fit for the MIAA to end it in an unorthodox method. Northwest soccer will face Missouri Southern April 22 at Bearcat Pitch for the first round of the MIAA's postseason tournament.

In the absence of a true conference championship tournament, the MIAA created a pseudo-championship in which teams would be seeded as they normally would but only face seeds one spot lower than them from the opposite division. Each team will play two games to conclude the postseason.

Northwest coach Marc Gordon is glad to be able to play in Maryville after extensive excursions to Kearney, Nebraska, and Fort Hays, Kansas. However, due to the four inches of snowfall in Kearney April 16, the Bearcats only made it to Lincoln, Nebraska, before they were forced to return from the hours they'd already spent on the road.

"We haven't had a whole lot of home matches, so being on the new pitch will be great," Gordon said. "I'm sure (the team is) excited to play somebody outside of their division. (Southern) is going to bring in a lot of experience in terms of matches they've played this spring. Looking forward to an opportunity to play."

Southern (4-8, 1-4 MIAA) has played nearly twice the number of games as Northwest (3-3-1, 2-2 MIAA) has this season. However, both Gordon and senior midfielder Madi McKeever believe that it won't matter in the postseason. With the 'Cats riding a two-game win streak and their offense now in rhythm, the game is all but decided, and they're looking to take it.

A factor playing into the team's confidence is being able to play in a familiar location. The Bearcat Pitch is nothing more than a walk around campus for the 'Cats.

SEE TOURNEY | A6



Sophomore Alyssa Rezac prepares to set the ball in the Northwest 3-0 sweep over Missouri Western March 17 at the Bearcat Arena. The Bearcats played April 17 in the 2021 MIAA Spring Tournament held at Lee Arena on the Washburn University campus. Northwest completed their season 14-3 overall.

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